Transcript: Pre QP Scrum with Public Safety Marco Mendicino - February 11, 2022

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DATE/DATE:
February 11, 2022 (Before Question Period)

LOCATION/ENDROIT:
2nd Floor Foyer, West Block OTTAWA, ON

PRINCIPAL(S)/PRINCIPAUX:
Marco E. L. Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety.

SUBJECT/SUJET:
Scrum before Question Period with Minister of Public Safety Marco Mendicino.

Question: Ontario Premier Doug Ford just announced a state of emergency in order to increase enforcement. Is Ottawa planning on doing something similar?

Hon. Marco Mendicino: Well, right since the beginning of this convoy, we have been taking decisive action by providing law enforcement all of the tools, the assets, the personnel that they need to uphold the law. I was pleased yesterday to confirm that the RCMP have sent their third additional supplemental deployment to assist the Ottawa Police Service in disengaging the convoy. We've also sent concrete reinforcements to Coutts, Alberta and we'll continue to — to be there, but our number one priority is to ensure that we end the illegal blockades, that we ensure that we uphold the law, and that we ensure that we get trade and travel going again.

Question: What exactly has the Manitoba government asked of you for the Emerson crossing?

Hon. Marco Mendicino: Well, first and foremost, I look forward to speaking with my counterpart later today in Manitoba, and he and his office have been in touch with my officials. I'm also pleased to see that there has been some negotiation to allow livestock trade continue to go through Emerson despite the blockade, so that has minimized the impact economically there. But it's important that law enforcement take the independent decisions that they are taking to enforce the law, as they will, and we'll continue to provide whatever resources that we can to assist at the Emerson port of entry.

Question: Êtes-vous soulagés de — d'entendre l'annonce du gouvernement Ford, là, il y a quelques minutes? Parce qu'on sent quand même que apparemment il ne voulait pas aller à votre table de consultation. Donc est-ce que c'est… Comment est-ce que vous accueillez cette nouvelle-là aujourd'hui?

Hon. Marco Mendicino: Écoute. C'est — c'est des — c'est des nouvelles qui — qui étaient juste publiées maintenant, mais j'avais plusieurs de discussions avec mon homologue d'Ontario, la ministre Jones. Je pense qu'il y a beaucoup, beaucoup de — de coopération entre l'OPP et les services de police ici à Ottawa et même la GRC. Ça, c'est le plus important chose pour — pour moi,

qu'il y a une étroite collaboration entre — pas seulement entre les gouvernements, mais particulièrement entre les services de police, parce que eux sont responsables pour enforcer le — la loi.

Question: I need — I need that in English. You haven't — you haven't mentioned or Sylvia Jones in your English answer. So I need an English reaction (inaudible) naming those people.

Hon. Marco Mendicino: I'm happy to do that. Okay. So what I said was obviously this is news that has just been released by Ontario regarding their measures and that I have remained in — in — in consistent contact with Minister Jones regarding the support that they are providing vis-à-vis the OPP to assist with enforcement here in Ottawa, and it's important that those lines of communication remain open. In addition to that, as I said, what's key is that law enforcement are communicating, and that once deployed, there is actually very good seamless communication and execution of their duties to ensure that enforcement is coordinated, is done safely and securely.

Question: Est-ce qu'il y a des (inaudible) d'envoyer la GRC ou l'armée pour sortir ces camionneurs qui bloquent le point Ambassadeur?

Hon. Marco Mendicino: Notre premier choix — je pense que le premier choix de tout le monde est qu'on peut utiliser les autorités et les — et les —

Question: Mais ça bouge pas, là.

Hon. Marco Mendicino: Non, il y a — il y a peu de progrès ici en Ottawa. Il y a un peu de progrès en Emerson où les — les commerces peuvent continuer malgré de le — le convoi. Donc — donc il y a des progrès. Mais je partageais le sentiment qu'il faut avancer le bout, (ph) il faut terminer le — le convoi, et ça c'est la raison que notre gouvernement vont continuer d'offrir tous les ressources, tous la — l'appui pour les services de policières. (sic)

Question: One more question.

Hon. Marco Mendicino: Yes, sure.

Question: One more question.

Hon. Marco Mendicino: Sure.

Question: (inaudible – off microphone) RCMP officers. Will you meet that request?

Hon. Marco Mendicino: I'm sorry. Who has asked?

Question: (inaudible – off microphone)

Hon. Marco Mendicino: So I think what you will hear from the mayor, because we have remained in very close contact, is that there has been timely and welcomed response from the RCMP. This is now the third time that we have offered additional personnel and officers for the purposes of public safety, and right now, what's key is that we end the illegal blockade, make sure that we uphold the law and people are seen to be following the law, and we need to get people back to their lives and trade and travel moving again. Thank you very much.

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